

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

In the first production method of the present invention, examples of the alkali metal include lithium (Li), potassium (K), rubidium (Rb), cesium (Cs), and francium (Fr), and examples of the alkaline-earth metal include calcium (Ca), strontium (Sr), barium (~~Br~~ Ba), and radium (Ra). They may be used individually or two or more of them may be used together. Among them, Li, Ca, K, Rb, and Cs are preferable, and Li and Ca are more preferable. The alkali metal (other than Na) and/or the alkaline-earth metal may be added so that the ratio (mol%) thereof to the total of the sodium (Na) and the alkali metal (other than Na) and/or the alkaline-earth metal is, for instance, in the range from 0.1 to 99 mol%, preferably from 0.1 to 50 mol%, more preferably from 0.1 to 35 mol%, and still more preferably from 0.1 to 30 mol%. Furthermore, in the case where calcium (Ca) alone is used, the ratio (mol%) of the calcium (Ca) to the total of the sodium (Na) and the calcium (Ca) is, for instance, in the range from 0.1 to 99 mol%, preferably from 0.1 to 50 mol%, more preferably from 0.1 to 35 mol%, and still more preferably from 0.1 to 30 mol%. Also, the ratio (mol%) of the sodium (Na) to the total of the gallium (Ga) and the sodium (Na) is, for instance, in the range from 0.1 to 99.9 mol%, preferably from 30 to 99 mol%, and more preferably from 60 to 95 mol%. The mole ratio of the gallium, sodium, and calcium particularly preferably is Ga : Na : Ca = 3.7 : 9.75 : 0.25 or 27 : 51 : 22. However, note here that the present invention is not limited to the above-mentioned ranges.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

In the second production method of the present invention, examples of the alkali metal include lithium (Li), sodium (Na), potassium (K), rubidium (Rb), cesium (Cs) and francium (Fr),

and examples of the alkaline-earth metal include calcium (Ca), strontium (Sr), barium (~~Br~~ Ba), and radium (Ra). They may be used individually (a single-substance flux) or two or more of them may be used together (a mixed flux). As in the case of the first production method, a mixed flux containing sodium and one or more other metals may also be used in the second production method. The type, conditions, etc. of the mixed flux are the same as those described above.